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Letter dated 12 May 1993 from the Acting Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement issued on 20 April 1993 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic in connection with the decision of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 71 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mr. Vladimir GALUŠKA
Counsellor
Acting Permanent Representative

* A/48/50.

ANNEX

Statement issued on 20 April 1993 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic on the decision of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The Czech Republic considers the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons one of the main pillars of the system of agreements limiting armaments and contributing towards strengthening international security. In its declaration of 17 December 1992, the Czech National Council recognized the validity of the Treaty for the Czech Republic as of 1 January 1993 following the dissolution of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. The depositories of the Treaty have already been informed of this decision by a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

The Fifth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will be held in 1995. Besides evaluating the implementation of the Treaty in the expired five-year period, the Conference is also to take a decision, in accordance with Article X.2 of the Treaty, on the extension of its validity. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic proceeds from the fact that all round efforts should be made to strengthen the Treaty before the Review Conference. The greater was its disappointment when it was informed about the decision of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Treaty, to which it became a Party in 1985. The weakening of the Treaty would constitute a serious step which could threaten regional as well as global security. Moreover, this would happen shortly after the nuclear non-proliferation regime was strengthened through the accession to the Treaty by France, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic examined the information available on the implementation of the Safeguards Agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency. In assessing the present situation, it proceeds from the fact that the system of IAEA inspections forms the basis for ensuring the observance of all provisions of the Treaty and that all Participating States should allow inspections on their territory. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic is of the opinion that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should reassess its declared intention to withdraw from the Treaty. The problem should be solved by political means in the interest of preserving and further strengthening the regime of nuclear non-proliferation. In this respect, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic fully identifies itself with the statement made on this question by the depositaries of the Treaty on 1 April 1993 (S/25515).